

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 14, paragraph 44, please amend as follows:

A negative voltage is applied to the specimen 13 as a retarding voltage for decelerating the electron beam 36 by a variable deceleration power supply 14. A voltage is further applied to ~~the specimen 13 an electrode~~ in the positive direction ~~by an to the specimen 13.~~ The electrode 34 is provided between the specimen 13 and the objective lens 9. Thus, the electron beam 36 is decelerated by the retarding voltage. Normally, the electrode 34 is set at the earth electric potential and the retarding voltage can be changed arbitrarily by adjusting the variable deceleration power supply 14.